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House of Representatives

Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Kentucky Educational Television (KET)

HON. HAROLD “HAL” ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Kentucky Educational Television’s (KET) 50th Anniversary.

Since 1968, KET has impacted the lives of countless Kentuckians through its advocacy and broadcasting of educational programs. KET has long-served as a successful educational platform for the arts, theater, history, politics, health and STEM fields. In 1989, KET introduced one of the first interactive distance learning program services, giving Kentuckians the opportunity to advance their education via network broadcasting. KET is now one of the largest public television networks in the country with more than 25 programs, reaching over one million people each week.

I applaud KET’s commitment to raise awareness of pertinent issues across the Commonwealth and challenges in our rural Appalachian region. While many media outlets have been slow to produce comprehensive coverage of the nation’s deadly opioid epidemic, KET has led the way by shedding light on the long history of addiction in Kentucky and the multi-faceted pledge for rehabilitation and recovery. It is because of these efforts, including in-depth reports, community forums, and annual coverage of the National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit, that KET recently received the national Mental Health America Media Award for its Inside Opioid Addiction Initiative. Thanks to KET’s broadcasting efforts, more people across Kentucky have rallied together to become part of the solution to the drug abuse crisis and we are making significant strides to save lives across the state.

As part of this Golden Anniversary celebration, I also want to commend KET for bringing Kentuckians together and promoting healthy debates about vital issues for the state. For decades, great journalists like Al Smith, Bill Goodman, Bill Bryant and many others have set the stage for state and federal legislators to discuss how key policies impact our daily lives, while also providing civic awareness during elections, spending countless hours on the air, sharing election results from all of our 120 counties. In addition to educational programming and news coverage, KET has also used its platform to extend immense compassion through local partnerships to benefit those most in-need.

As KET celebrates the 50th anniversary of its first broadcast, I join my fellow Kentuckians in sharing my appreciation for every minute of broadcasting excellence that has been used to educate our children and our families. KET has made a significant impact in our state and it is an honor to support this organization’s continued work.
